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Review of the Programme of Work for 2014 to 2015

Review of the programme of work for 2014 and 2015

Note by the Bureau of the Working Party

Summary

The present note contains information on progress made in the implementation of the programme of work for 2014-2015 (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2013/3) of the Working Party on Land Administration and on work to be undertaken throughout 2015. The first three parts of the document are organized according to the clusters of the programme of work; the fourth part describes additional activities and work of the Bureau of the Working Party.

This note also includes those activities of the programme of work 2012-2013 (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2011/2) undertaken since the eighth session, which was held on 18 March 2013.

When discussing its activities, the Working Party may wish to keep in mind that the programme should reflect the interests of member States and their willingness to contribute to the programme's implementation in terms of expertise and human and financial resources.

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I. Capacity-building and international knowledge sharing

1. Since the eighth session of the Working Party on Land Administration in March 2013, the Working Party held the following workshops:

- "Land Administration in Central Asia: Building Systems for 21st Century Challenges" in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 19 - 20 March 2013. The workshop addressed challenges and prospects for land administration and cadastre agencies throughout the UNECE region, with a focus on challenges and opportunities related to land management in the countries of Central Asia;
- "Collaborating for secured ownership" in Uppsala, Sweden, 29 - 31 May 2013. The workshop examined how e-governance can give individual landowners better service and allow the administration to serve the society more efficiently;
- "The socioeconomic potential of land administration services," in Copenhagen in May 2014. The workshop explored different aspects of open data in land registration systems and how data interoperability among government agencies could increase citizens' well-being;
- "Real Estate Infrastructure – Fit for Use?" in Vienna October 2014. During the workshop participants shared experiences, presented recent achievements and major challenges in developing real estate infrastructure from a technical, organisational and innovative perspective;
- "Benchmarking of Land Administration Systems and Implementation of Land Governance Assessment Framework in the UNECE Region" in Baku, 28 November 2014. During the workshop the study on the Survey on Land Administration Systems in the ECE Region was presented. It provides an analysis of national land administration systems services, data security and practices for recovering data in the event of a disaster, and other aspects of land administration.

2. In May 2014, the Working Party also organized a meeting of international agencies to explore opportunities for synergy and cooperation in their activities. In addition to the Working Party, the following organizations participated in this meeting: the Council of Geodetic Surveyors, EuroGeographics, the European Land Information Service, the European Land Registry Association, the International Federation of Surveyors, the Permanent Committee on Cadastre in the European Union (PCC) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

3. The Working Party organized several sessions during the "Land and poverty conference", hosted by the World Bank in March 2014 in Washington, DC. This included organizing an interregional panel to discuss land administration systems worldwide and a session to discuss the work of the Working Party.

4. The Bureau of the Working Party and the secretariat have also presented the work of the Working Party at various international events focusing on land administration, including:

- "Towards a sustainable real estate market – Real Estate Registration, Investment, Regulation and Capacity Building," organized by the Dubai Real Estate Institute in January 2014 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates;
- "International conference on collateral risk: A historical perspective and German and United States case studies", organized by the private sector and by non-governmental organizations in March 2014 in Berlin. The secretariat made a

presentation on the work of the Working Party and the Real Estate Market Advisory Group;

- "Development of additional functions of property management systems", organized by the Governments of Belarus and Sweden in April 2014 in Minsk;
- "Geospatial World Forum", organized by Geospatial Media and Communications in May 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland. The Working Party organized the workshop "Land as the Basis for Smart City Management" as part of this Forum;
- "Approaches and best practices in urban planning and land administration", organized by the Government of Uzbekistan and the ECE in June 2014 in Tashkent;
- "Plenary meeting of the Permanent Committee on Cadastre in the European Union", hosted by the Government of Greece and PCC in June 2014 in Athens;
- "Europe and Central Asia land and e-learning session: Monitoring voluntary guidelines implementation at country level – Voluntary Guidelines Land Governance Assessment Framework information mapping", organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in July 2014. The Chair of the Working Party made a presentation on the work of the Working Party and its connection to the Land Governance Assessment Framework.

5. The Working Party will organize three more workshops in 2015: the first to take place in Geneva in February, the second to take place in Russia in June and the third to take place in Baku in October.

6. The Bureau of the Working Party and the ECE secretariat developed an online wiki[1] to facilitate the sharing of information with the public and between its members. The secretariat has also developed brochures to promote the publications of the Working Party and published a special issue of the newsletter *Vital Spaces*, which focuses on the work of the Working Party.

II. Land-administration reviews

7. The Working Party undertook two land administration reviews in 2013 and 2014, in the Republic of Moldova and in Uzbekistan.

8. The review of land administration and real estate markets in the Republic Moldova was developed by experts from the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

9. The review of land management and land administration in Uzbekistan was developed by experts from the United Kingdom.

10. These reviews will be published as chapters in the country profiles on housing and land management of these countries.

III. Studies on selected topics in land management

11. In 2014, the Working Party completed the study "Survey on Land Administration Systems in the ECE Region" (ECE/HBP/180). The study gathered information on countries' land administration systems. This included information on the efficiency of their services,

[1] Available at https://www2.ECE.org/wiki/display/HLMWPLA/Home.

the security of their data and their ability to recover data and services in the event of a disaster.

12. The Working Party completed the study on "Land Registration and Cadastre: One or Two Agencies?" (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2015/3) which analysed the effects of the merging of land registration and cadastre institutions in the ECE region. The aim of the study was to understand the relationship between organizational structures and the quality of services of land administration organisations.

13. The Working Party completed the study "Informal Development: Challenges and Solutions from South-East Europe" (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2015/4). This study is expected to be completed in 2015. The study examines the causes of informal housing development in South-East Europe and assesses the Government's policies to address this issue. The study provides recommendations on how member States can address the challenges posed by informal development.

IV. Work of the Bureau of the Working Party

14. Since the last session of the Working Party, held on 18 March 2013, the Bureau met six times in 2013 and nine times in 2014.

15. Each Bureau member was assigned the responsibility to collect data on the land administration systems of the selected countries in the region and to monitor land administration trends.

16. The Bureau has also divided its members into task groups to work on contributing to the programme of work in selected areas. These include:

- Task group one on seminars and workshops
- Task group two on land administration reviews and participation in country profiles on housing and land management
- Task group three on the publication of studies and guidelines on specific land administration and land management topics
- Task group four on the benchmarking and preparation of inventories of land administration systems
- Task group five on cooperation with related national organizations
- Task group six on cooperation with related international organizations and interregional cooperation
- Task group seven on the study "Land Registration and Cadastre: One or Two Agencies?" and its promotion.

Annex

Programme of work for 2014-2015

This programme of work (ECE/HBP/WP.7/2013/3) was approved by the Working Party at its eighth session on 18 March 2013.

I. Capacity-building and international knowledge sharing

1. Objective: To increase the capacity of ECE member State representatives and other stakeholders to formulate policies on land management, land administration, address registers and cadastres.

2. To complete this objective, the Working Party will:

- Organize four workshops in the ECE region to allow for experience and knowledge sharing, to improve he human capital of stakeholders and enhance land management practices.
- Contribute, as requested and available, to ECE Real Estate Market Advisory Group roundtable discussions.
- Present the work of the Working Party and topics in land management at workshops, conferences, seminars and other events focusing on land management.

II. Land-administration reviews

3. Objective: To provide, upon member State request, an assessment of member State land-administration systems and to provide guidelines to enhance these systems.

4. To complete this objective, the Working Party will, upon invitation by Governments and subject to the availability of funding, create reviews of member State land-administration reviews as part of the ECE Country Profiles on the Housing Sector.

III. Studies on selected topics in land management and land administration

5. Objective: To study an issue in land management of interest to member States and issue a publication containing an analysis of this issue to help member States better understand the current status of land management and thus formulate more targeted and effective policies.

6. Activity: The Working Party will conduct a study on the structure of land-administration and cadastre agencies to examine the organizational structure of these agencies. The study will provide guidelines and policy recommendations to ECE member States for the organization of these agencies and suggest the conditions under which different organizational structures are advisable.